



28 April 2010

**AWA comment on the National Performance Reports 2008-09
- Australian water services**

Tom Mollenkopf, Chief Executive of the Australian Water Association, said:

“The national ‘report card’ for our major cities presents a refreshingly encouraging picture of Australia’s water resources. In particular, I welcome the considerable investment to diversify and secure our sources of urban water. However, Australia is still not out of the woods when it comes to securing our long term water supply and we need to think now about our options for the next round of infrastructure investment to meet our long term resource needs.

“Desalination plants, recycling projects and new pipelines are all crucial elements of the overall solution to our water resources but all options should be on the table including recycled drinking water.

“For now however, there are some encouraging trends: water consumption across the nation has been trending down and use of recycled water is up. It is important also that the price we pay for water has been increasing – this is as it must be. For too long we have undervalued and underpriced water.

“Overall, this report reflects what many people overseas have been saying: Australia has been one of the first to confront the impacts of climate change and it has demonstrated how that can be done.”

-ENDS-

For further information, images or interview requests please contact Helen Ketton, AWA Communications Manager, on 02 9467 8416 / 0401 806 277

Notes to Editors

- The Australian Water Association (AWA) is Australia's leading water sector body, representing over 10,000 water professionals around the country and across all water disciplines.
- AWA provides leadership in the water sector on a wide range of issues, including skills shortages, climate change and water reuse and recycling.
- AWA works to enhance the skills and knowledge of water professionals and promote and disseminate best practice through an extensive range of technical seminars, courses and events.